

United States Embassy Lusaka, Zambia
Message for U.S. Citizens: Revised Entry and Exit Requirements for South Africa

June 16, 2014

The U.S. Embassy in Lusaka would like to inform U.S. citizens in Zambia who are planning on traveling to, or transiting through, South Africa that South African authorities recently issued [new immigration regulations](#), effective on May 26, 2014. The following guidance is based on these new regulations:

New Regulations for Children

These rules apply to children who are entering or departing South Africa, and the required documents should be retained throughout the stay of the child in South Africa. The regulations for children will be enforced on October 1, 2014.

- When BOTH parents are traveling with a child, parents must produce the child's *unabridged* birth certificate. The exact contents of an unabridged birth certificate varies among the different South African jurisdictions that issue birth certificates, but the key distinction between an “abridged” and “unabridged” birth certificate is that the unabridged version identifies the parents of the child.

- When ONE parent is traveling with a child, he or she must produce an unabridged birth certificate and:
 - (i) An affidavit of consent from the non-traveling parent authorizing the traveling parent to enter or depart from South Africa with the child. Note: The non-traveling parent must be registered as a parent on the child's birth certificate.

 - (ii) A court order granting full parental responsibilities and rights or legal guardianship in respect of the child, if he or she is the parent or legal guardian of the child; or

 - (iii) Where applicable, a death certificate of the other parent registered as a parent of the child on the birth certificate.

- When a person is travelling with a child who is NOT his or her biological child, he or she must produce:

(i) A copy of the unabridged birth certificate of the child;

(ii) An affidavit from the parents or legal guardian of the child confirming that he or she has permission to travel with the child;

(iii) Copies of the identity documents or passports of the parents or legal guardian of the child; and

(iv) The contact details of the parents or legal guardian of the child,

- An UNACOMPANIED minor (under 18 years of age) must produce:

(i) Proof of consent from one or both of the minor's parents or legal guardian, in the form of a letter or affidavit for the child to travel into or depart from South Africa. In the case where only one parent provides proof of consent, that parent must also provide a copy of a court order issued to him or her stating that he or she has been granted full parental responsibilities and rights in respect of the child;

(ii) A letter from the person who is to receive the child in South Africa, containing his or her residential address and contact details where the child will be residing;

(iii) A copy of the identity document or valid passport and visa or permanent residence permit of the person who is to receive the child in the South Africa; and

(iv) The contact details of the parents or legal guardian of the child.

Passport Requirements for South Africa

South African law requires that all foreign passports must be valid for at least 30 days after your intended date of departure from South Africa. The passports should also have two fully blank visa pages upon each arrival in South Africa. Blank "endorsement" pages at the end of the passport are not sufficient. The blank

pages must be “visa” pages. Travelers without the requisite blank visa pages in their passports may be refused entry into South Africa, fined, and returned to their point of origin at their own expense.

As a general precaution, all travelers should carry a photocopy of the photo/bio information page of their passport and keep it in a location separate from their passport.

Visa Requirements for South Africa

U.S. citizen visitors to South Africa for tourism, short business meetings, or in transit do not require visas for stays of up to 90 days. Under the new regulations, applications to extend tourist visas are no longer allowed unless the traveler requires emergency life-saving medical treatment for longer than three months, or is an accompanying spouse or child of a business or work visa holder and also wishes to apply for a study or work visa.

All other travelers, including academics, students on educational trips, entrepreneurs, workers, and volunteers, need visas. Applicants for all visas must apply in person for such visas in the country where they ordinarily reside or where they hold citizenship. For example, U.S. citizen travelers who intend to work in South Africa must apply for work visas before arrival; otherwise, travelers risk being refused admission and returned to their point of origin. Applications to extend non-tourist visas must be submitted no less than 60 days prior to the expiry date of the traveler’s visa, and if the visa was issued for less than 30 days, not later than seven working days before the expiry of the visa. Such extensions may be applied for in South Africa.

In the event that travelers overstay their authorized period of stay by up to 30 days, they may be declared “undesirable” by immigration authorities and barred from entering South Africa for a period of 12 months. In the case of travelers who overstay a second time within 24 months, they may be declared undesirable for two years. In the case of travelers who overstay for more than 30 days, they may be declared undesirable for a period of five years.

For updated information about the latest immigration requirements, travelers should visit the website for the [South African Department of Home Affairs](#) and the [U.S. Consulate in Johannesburg](#). Travelers are also advised to contact the nearest South African embassy or consulate before traveling.

U.S. Embassy Zambia: General Guidance and Contact Information:

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Zambia enroll in the [Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) at www.Travel.State.Gov. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy.

Regularly monitor the State [Department's website](#), where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the [Country Specific Information for Zambia](#). For additional information, refer to the ["Traveler's Checklist"](#) on the State Department's website.

Contact the U.S. Embassy for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) to have travel information at your fingertips.

The U.S. Embassy in Lusaka is located on Ibex Hill and is open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Fridays from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. The Consular Section can be contacted at 0211-357-000 or via email at ACSLusaka@state.gov. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, **the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy is +260 (0) 966-877-805.**